Design-based research in music education

An approach to interlink research and the development of educational innovation

Wilfried Aigner
Institute for Music Education
University of Music and Performing Arts
Vienna/Austria

Open Ears – Open Minds. Listening and Understanding Music. 23rd EAS Conference, 25-28 March 2015, Rostock (Germany)
Design-based research...

... a form of empiric research that takes responsibility for the future by designing an innovative educational intervention and by implementing it into practice.
Today...

• characteristics and examples

• “design”? 

• chances and challenges
Today...

- **Design-Based Research / DBR**
  - DBRC – Design-based Research Collective 2003
  - Anderson/Shattuck 2012
- **Educational Design Research**
  - McKenney/Reeves 2012
- **Entwicklungsorientierte Bildungsforschung**
  - Reinmann/Sesink 2011
  - Reinmann/Vohle 2012
  - Reinmann 2013
Backgrounds...

- Encouraging students to compose in the music classroom and the social web. An educational design research study on the use of digital media for processes of creativity and communication in music education

- **ecompose Austria**
  - Teachers, composers, trainees, researcher
  - Classroom + web-based music notation + communication
  - 2 years, 2 cycles
  - 100+ students, 5 classes

Wilfried Aigner – Design-based research in music education
Characteristics...

- Collaboration of researchers & practitioners
  → „research partnership“
- Theoretically oriented – levels of theory
- Iterative, cyclical, explorative
  → „research by mistakes“
- Aims and results: dual focus, double outcome
Model for Educational Design Research

Implementation & spread

Analysis
Exploration

Design
Construction

Evaluation
Reflection

Maturing intervention
Theoretical understanding

McKenney & Reeves (2012)
&
Reinmann (2013)

Wilfried Aigner – Design-based research in music education
Model for Educational Design Research

Analysis

Exploration

Design

Construction

Evaluation

Reflection

Implementation & spread

Maturing intervention

Theoretical understanding

„design principles“
Model for Educational Design Research

Wilfried Aigner – Design-based research in music education
Design

artefact
Entwurf

process
Entwicklung
Chances and Challenges
Chances and Challenges

Data...

(Aigner 2015)
Chances and Challenges

Methodological proceeding...

(Aigner 2015)
Conclusions...

- Potential of Educational Design Research: combining a real commitment for future innovation in school practice and research outcomes that provide valid theoretical knowledge.
- DBR in music education: focus should be on design and construction as proceedings (rather than on an object oriented interpretation of “design”).
- DBR can be of use in music education as an educational discipline where there exists creativity and the commitment to try out something new in practice.
Thank you!

Design-based research in music education

An approach to interlink research and the development of educational innovation

Wilfried Aigner
Institute for Music Education
University of Music and Performing Arts
Vienna/Austria

Open Ears – Open Minds. Listening and Understanding Music.
23rd EAS Conference, 25-28 March 2015, Rostock (Germany)